

FARTHING WOOD FRIENDS

24

Based on the series shown on **B B C** TV.



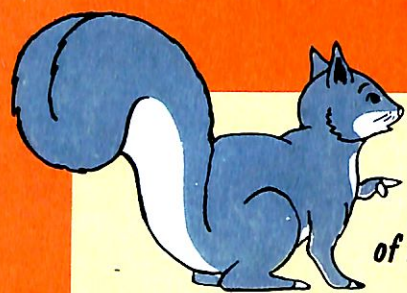
FREE
Album
stickers

NATURE FUN AND LEARN SERIES

ISBN 1-85875-293-0



9 781858 752938



Squirrel says,

*Hello Friends,
here's how to make sure
you don't miss any copies
of Farthing Wood Friends!*

GETTING YOUR COPIES

Please ask a grown up either to place a regular order with a newsagent, or take out a subscription.

HOW TO TAKE OUT A SUBSCRIPTION

(For readers in UK and Republic of Ireland only)

We'll deliver Farthing Wood Friends to your door every week AT NO EXTRA COST.

Simply write to: Farthing Wood Friends Subscriptions,
PO Box 1, Hastings, East Sussex TN35 4TJ or
telephone 0424 755755.

You may order as many copies as you like but we suggest a minimum of 12 parts. Please include payment with your order and be sure to state the part number of the first copy you want. You can pay by cheque, postal order or credit card.

*If you haven't got
all your copies of
Farthing Wood Friends*

DON'T PANIC!



Videos are available with parts 1, 5 and every fourth part after that. Each part with a video costs £5.95 (£2.95 for part 1). **Whether you're getting your copies from your newsagent or having them sent direct to your home, please be sure to state whether you want video or non-video versions of these parts when ordering.**

You can calculate the amount to pay for your subscription by multiplying the cover price by the number of parts required: for example 12 parts without the video x £1.20 will cost £14.40, or 12 parts with the video (3 video parts at £5.95 and 9 non-video parts at £1.20) will cost £28.65. You can also order back numbers from the above address. Postage and packing are free.

OVERSEAS

Subscriptions are available in Australia. Either telephone (03) 872 4000 or write to: Farthing Wood Friends, MC Box 460, Eastern Mail Centre VIC 3110 enclosing a cheque/money order for the cover price x the number of parts you wish to subscribe to (minimum 12 parts, \$47.40 without videos or \$74.40 with videos every fourth part).

KEEPING YOUR COPIES TIDY

You can get a Tidy Box to keep your copies in. Each box holds 26 copies and costs £5.95. Just ask a grown up to write to the address below stating the number of Tidy Boxes you want and enclosing the payment. Postage and packing are free.

HOW TO PAY

You can pay by cheque, postal order or credit card. Cheques or postal orders should be payable to Woodgate (Eaglemoss) Ltd. If paying by credit card, be sure to state the cardholder's name, type of card (Access or Visa), card number and expiry date. You can phone your order on 0424 755755.

Editorial and distribution offices
Eaglemoss Publications Ltd
7 Cromwell Road, London SW7 2HR
Circulation Manager:
Gary Neale (071) 581 1371

© Eaglemoss Publications Ltd 1994
The Animals of Farthing Wood is
© 1992 EBU.

Licensed by BBC Enterprises Ltd.
Based on the novels by Colin Dann.
Colour origination by Colourscan
Overseas Pte Ltd
Printed by Southernprint



Animals of Farthing Wood and the Animals of Farthing Wood logotype are Trade Marks of BBC Enterprises Ltd and are used under licence.

CONTENTS

ISSUE 24

TALES OF FARTHING WOOD
The wedding

ALL ABOUT
Fox cubs

HOW TO DRAW
The making of Farthing Wood

SECRET WORLD OF
A canal

DISCOVERING NATURE
Floating and sinking

FASCINATING FACTS
Eating

PUZZLE IT OUT
Pheasants on parade

COLOUR IT IN
Harvest time

ALSO

IN ISSUE 25

TALES OF FARTHING WOOD

Hic! Hic! Weasel gets rather tipsy when she stumbles upon a barrel of beer!

ALL ABOUT...Thrushes

They're the expert mud plasterers of the bird world.

FASCINATING FACTS

Shhh! Silence is golden when you're hiding from an enemy or creeping up on your next meal.

DISCOVERING NATURE

What rots? Do the burial test to find out.

CREDITS

Photographs: Ardea (John Daniels) AA1, (Stefan Meyers) AA3; Bruce Coleman Ltd (Jane Burton) AA2, (Peter Davey) FF1(bl); (Andy Purcell) FF2(r), (John Visser) FF2(bl, bc, br); Nature Photographers (Owen Newman) AA4(bl), (Paul Sterry) FF2(l); NHPA (Stephen Dalton) FF1(r); Oxford Scientific Films (G I Bernard) AA4(r); Terry Heathcote) AA3-4, (Stan Osolinski) FF1(l); P Llewelyn-Davies/Telemagination SW1(t).

Illustrations: Brin Edwards SW1-3; Dale E Evans DN1-3, CII; Mei Lim FC, HTD1-2; Josephine Martin FF2; Alan Rowe PIO1-4; Clive Spong/Linden Artists AA1(t), AA2(r), FF1; Anne Winterbotham AA1-2(b).

Key: AA = All About...; CII = Colour it in; DN = Discovering Nature; FF = Fascinating Facts; HTD = How to Draw; PIO = Puzzle it out; SW = Secret World.



HOW TO DRAW

Make a cut-out Adder with shifty eyes and a slippery tongue.

SECRET WORLD OF...

A dirty town

Rook shows you what's harmful to the environment and what's not.

PUZZLE IT OUT

The curtain goes up on Fox and Vixen when they put on a play for the animals.

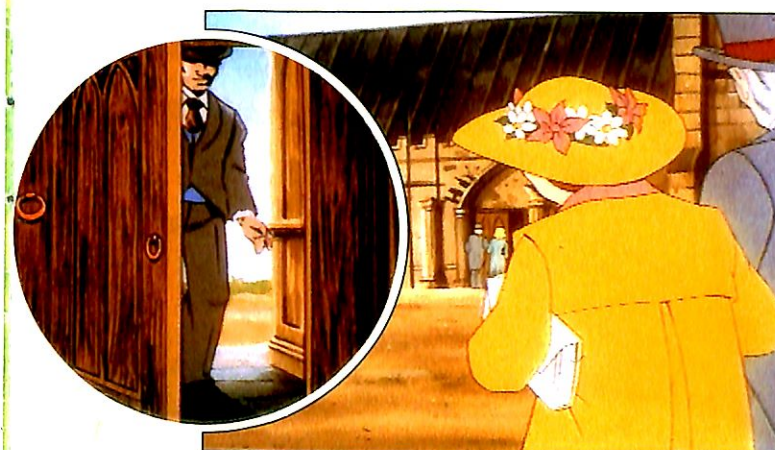


24: The wedding

The animals were sheltering from a torrential downpour in a church. They had got in through a hole in the wall and were tired out from the night's adventures.



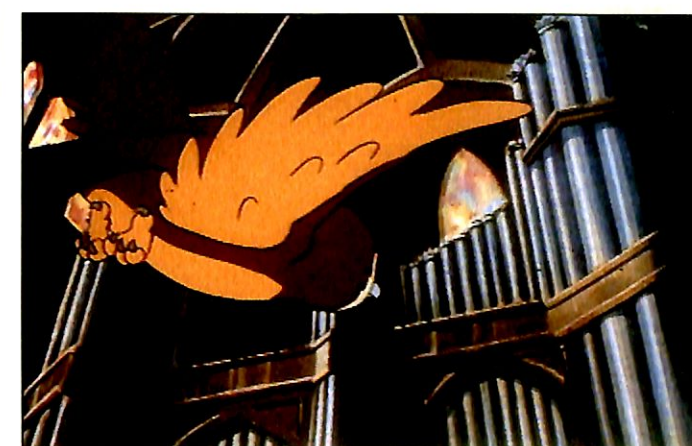
The sound of the last stone being pushed into place woke Fox. "What's that?" he asked. "Owl, have you been keeping watch?" "She's still deaf from the bell," said Badger. "It looks like we're trapped in here."



Just then they heard a key turning in the lock and the door opened. Several people, dressed in their best, were coming into the church.



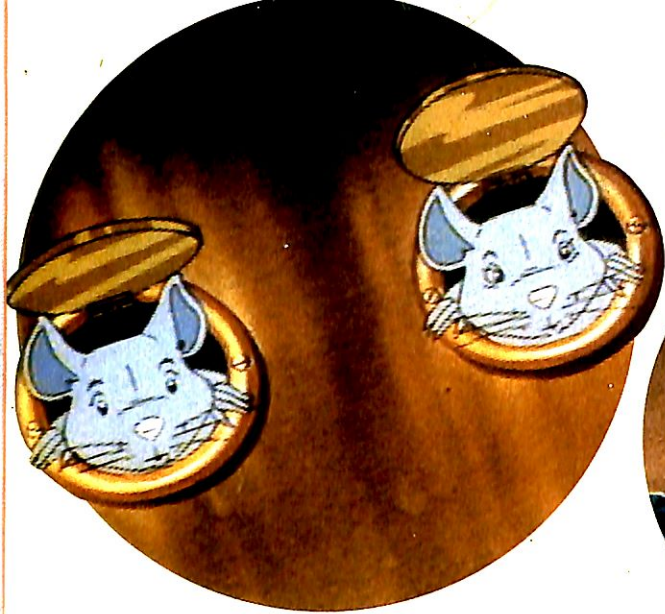
Unknown to the sleeping animals a workman was busy repairing the broken stone wall. The church had to look its best as there was a wedding planned for that day.



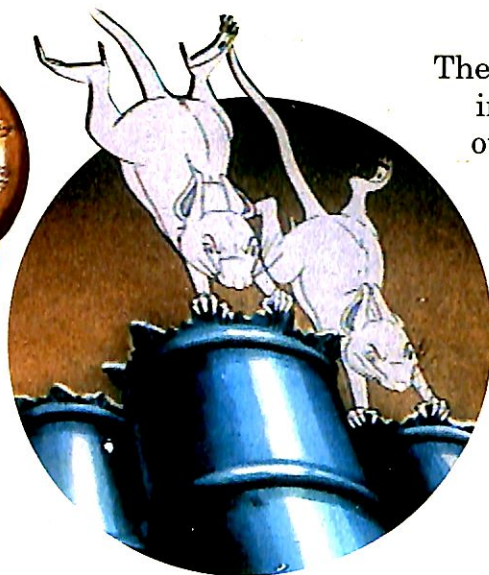
"Is there another way out?" called Fox. Owl flew around. "No way out except the belfry," she reported. "We'll just have to wait for the humans to open the doors."



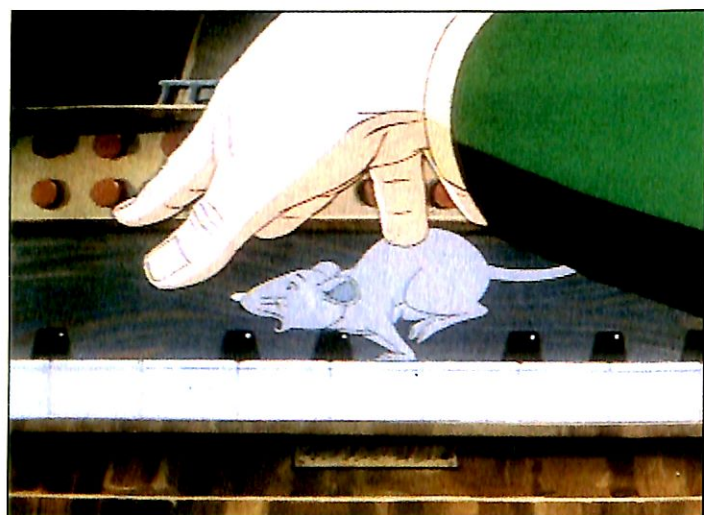
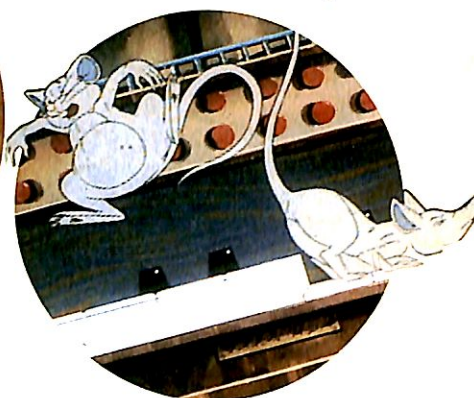
The church filled up with people – the bridegroom stood at the top of the aisle, waiting for the bride. "I think we should run for it," said Weasel. "No, lie low," said Fox.



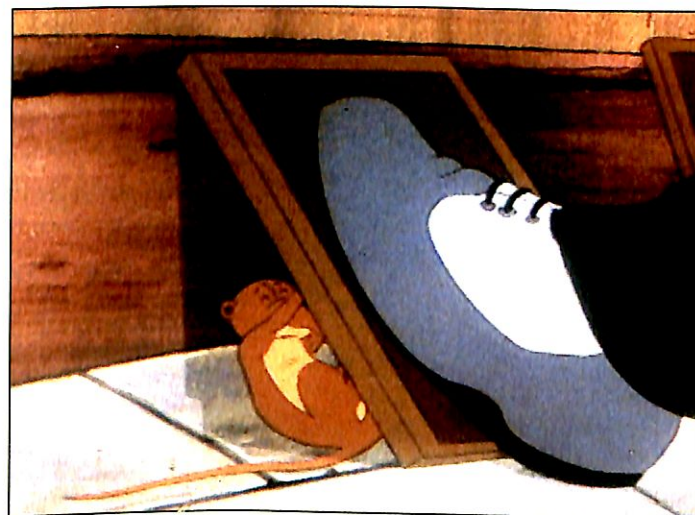
The man at the organ started to play ...



The Fieldmice had been hiding in the pipes and were blown out of the top with the blast.



They landed on the keys and ran up and down trying to escape the man's hands.



One of the Shrews got trapped behind the organ pedal. Mr Vole tugged at his tail until he was free.



The Rabbits panicked and dashed down the aisle. Weasel ran in between the pews. "It's a rat," screamed a lady waving her legs in the air.



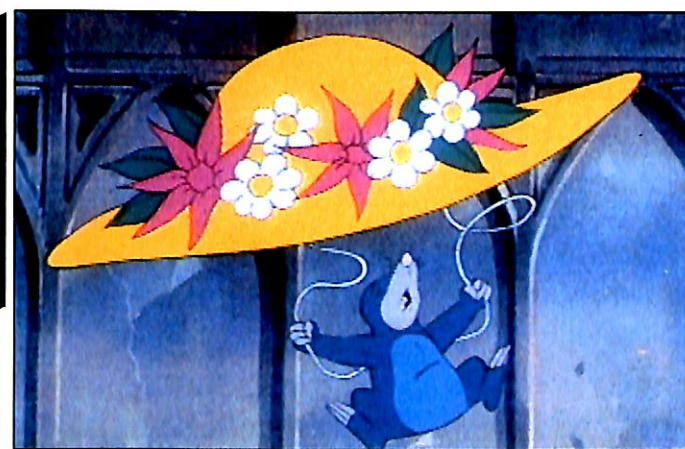
The bride and her father started to come into the church. "Make for the door," shrieked Weasel as she darted out between the bride's legs.



The bride screamed and threw her bouquet in the air. Weasel caught it with a laugh.



The church was in uproar. "Let's make a dash for it," said Fox. "Come on everybody." As Badger dashed down the aisle a hat landed on his head.



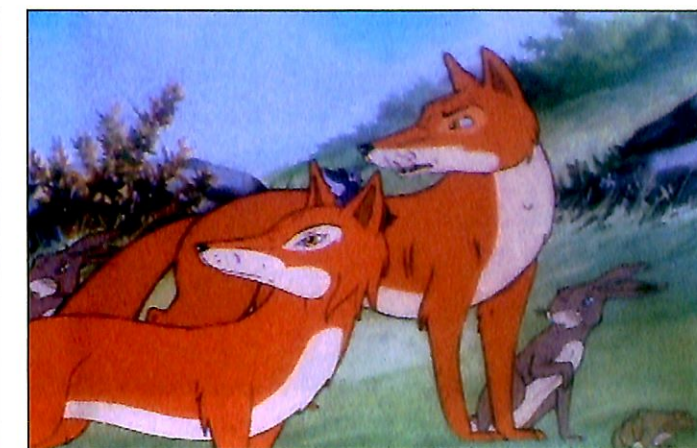
He tossed his head and the hat flew off with Mole hanging on to the strap.



Mole landed on Vixen and clung on for dear life. Vixen dashed out of the church.



As the birds flew through the door, Owl's talons caught in the bride's veil which floated down on to Adder's head.



The animals didn't stop until they reached the open fields. "Are we all here?" asked Fox. They looked round. Where were Badger and Weasel?

Next week: Separated.

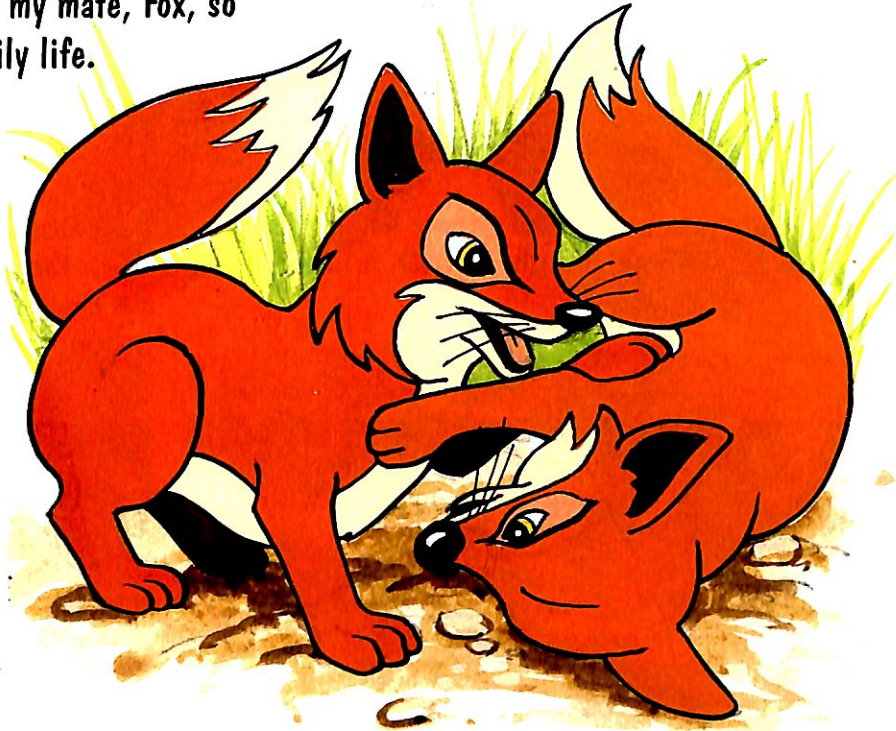
All About...

Foxcubs

“Hello. I’m Vixen. You’ve already met my mate, Fox, so now let me tell you a bit about our family life.

Although we live in loose family groups, for most of the year we vixens don’t have much to do with the dogs (the males). But in the middle of winter they come looking for us to persuade us to become their mates. They call to us with short barks and we reply with our screaming calls.

Once a vixen agrees to become a mate, the dog fox will keep her company for several weeks. When it gets near to the time for her to give birth, she searches about for a suitable den.”



From about Christmas time until February it’s our mating season. Once a vixen has paired up with a dog they hunt together for about three weeks. The dog walks behind the vixen, with his tail held out. After this they mate and then the vixen starts to look for a den.



Here I am at the entrance to my earth. We vixens often try out several dens before choosing one for a nursery. We either dig various burrows in soft soil in banks and ridges, or we check out dens that other animals, such as badgers, have made. The best kind of den is a chamber deep inside the earth, with two or three long tunnels leading to entrance holes.

For the first week or more, I stay in the den all the time, feeding the cubs with my milk. Fox catches food for me and brings it to the den. Then I start to spend time outside again, leaving the cubs for short spells on their own. If our den is discovered by humans I quickly move the cubs to another one nearby, grabbing each one by the scruff of its neck.

IT'S
Amazing!



TELLING TALES

Have you ever heard of Aesop’s Fables? They’re short stories about animals which behave like people and often do foolish, clever or funny things. There are a lot of fables about Fox.

One fable tells of a Fox lying on its back with its tongue hanging out and eyes closed, as if it was dead. Some birds appear and gather round to investigate this possible meal. Suddenly the Fox leaps up, catches one of the birds and eats it! Just a fable, the naturalists said.

BUT ... in 1961 a film-maker showed them how wrong they were. He filmed a Fox lying on its back, its tongue hanging out, pretending to be dead. When a hungry Carrion crow stepped right up to it the Fox sprang up and snatched it!

Usually four or five cubs are born in March on the bare soil. They have short ears, round faces and dark fur. At first their eyes are tight shut but after about ten days they open. As you might have noticed, they’re blue, not amber like ours.

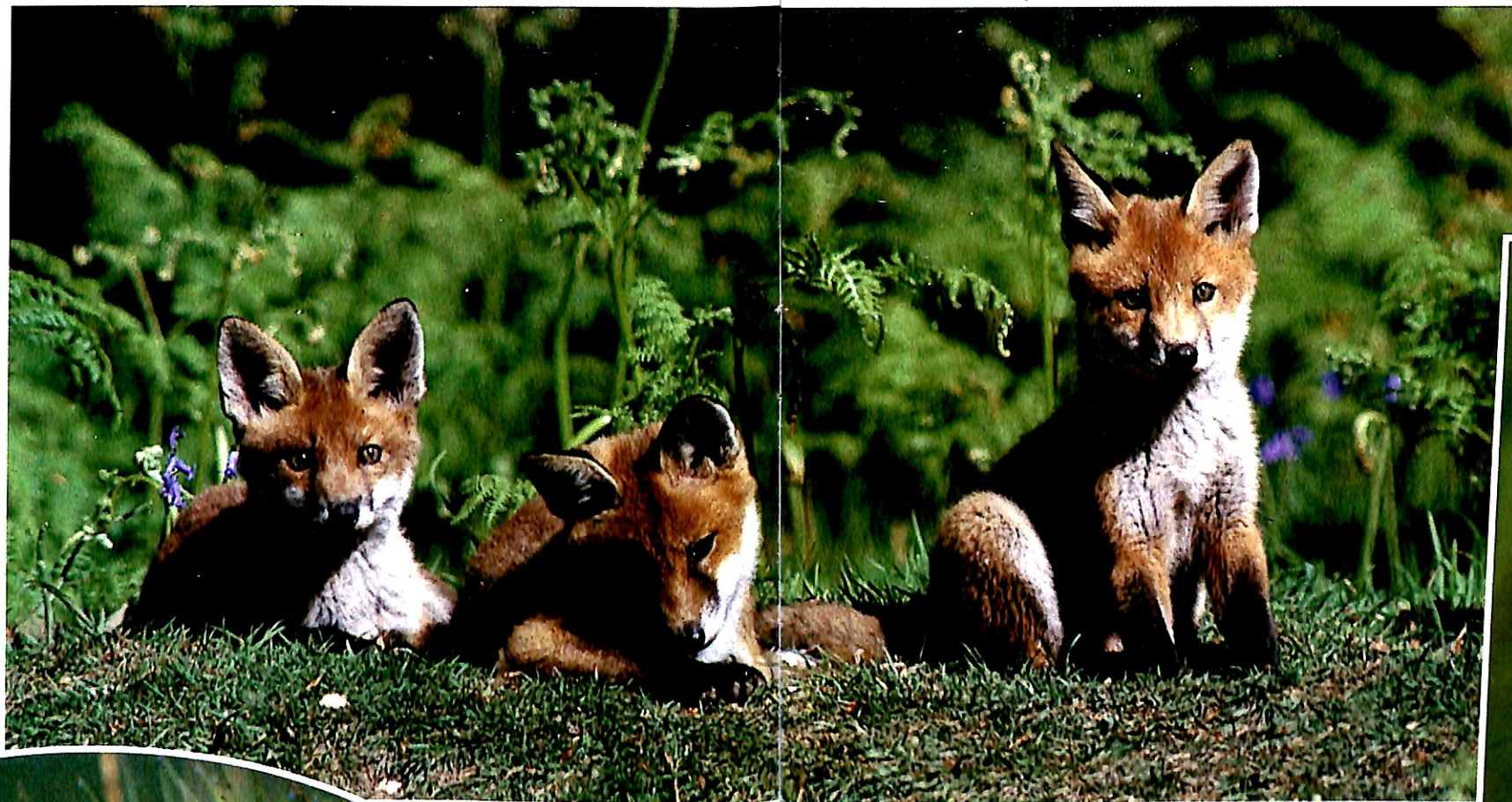


All About...

Bringing up the family

“When the cubs are about three weeks old, we mothers let them try their first solid food. We bring up small pieces of meat for them until they can manage to tear up bigger chunks themselves. About a week later they come out of the den for the first time to explore the outside world. Their eyes begin to turn amber and their coats become more reddish-brown.”

When the cubs are not looking for food they spend a lot of their time outside the den playing. They have mock fights, standing up on their back legs and pushing each other or tumbling around together on the ground.



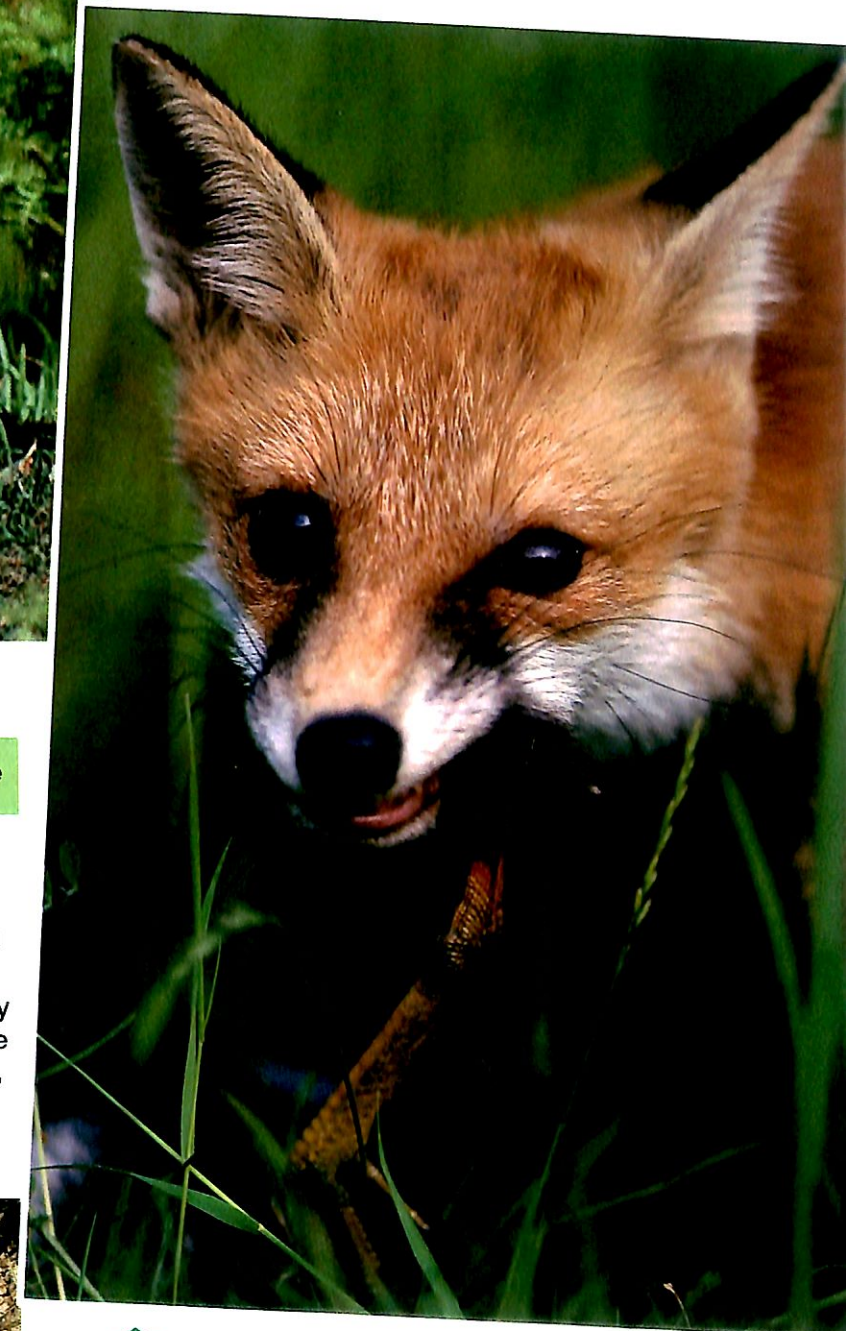
Many Fox pairs share their territory with young females from previous litters who are not ready to breed yet. These vixens often guard the cubs when we mothers go off hunting. They groom them for us and sometimes even bring them food, too. Occasionally our mates will play with the cubs but otherwise they don't really help.



Be a Nature Detective

FOX WATCH

Early summer, when the cubs often play outside their dens, is a good time to go Fox watching. If you know of a den which has cubs in it – look for the remains of meals – find a good hiding place close by and keep very still in the early morning or just before it gets dark in the evening. If there's a wind blowing, make sure that you're facing into it, otherwise the cubs might catch your scent and run away.



The cubs learn how to hunt by copying us adults – if we sniff at something, they will do the same. It doesn't take them long to find beetles in the grass but they find it difficult to get the knack of stabbing their snouts down into the ground to catch worms.

By autumn time they're able to kill birds, like this Moorhen, and small mammals. They often patrol Rabbit warrens, hoping to snatch a weak or sickly Rabbit. Towards the end of autumn the young dogs wander off to find their own territories but the vixens stay close to home.

The making of The Animals of Farthing Wood

10 THE CAMERAMAN

Once each cel had been checked, they were put in the right order. The cameraman photographed each cel. He uses a rostrum camera which takes one frame at a time. He can move the camera closer or further away from the cel to shoot all or part of the picture.

11 THE EDITOR

The final stage was to match the picture to the sound. The editor matched up the voices, music and sound effects to the exact frame of film. He also made sure that everything was the right loudness. For example, he checked that the sound of falling rain didn't drown out what Fox was saying. The film was now complete.

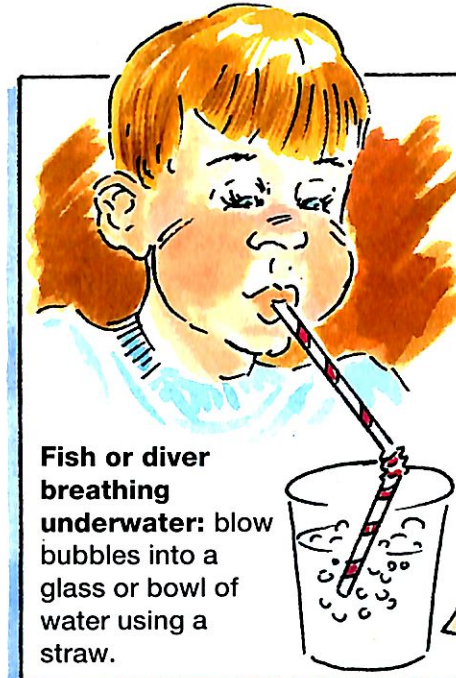
Weasel's Easel
Because it takes so long to make each episode of Farthing Wood, every other episode is drawn by a company in France.

ROSTRUM CAMERA

Sound effects

Now it's time for you to have a go at making your own sound effects. Noises like bang, splosh and twang are fun to make. You could draw a comic strip and try making some sound effects to go with it. Here are a few suggestions:

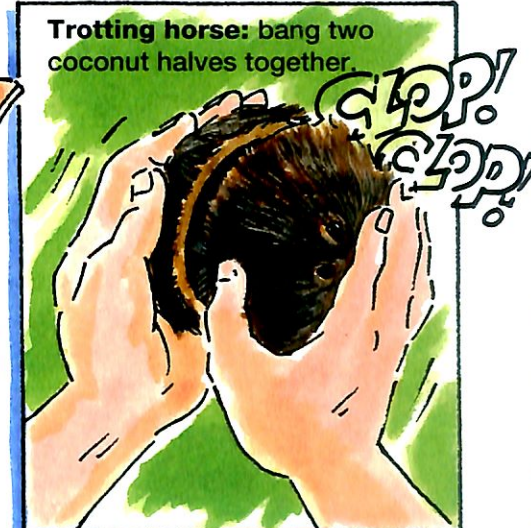
Turn the tap on for the sound of running water.



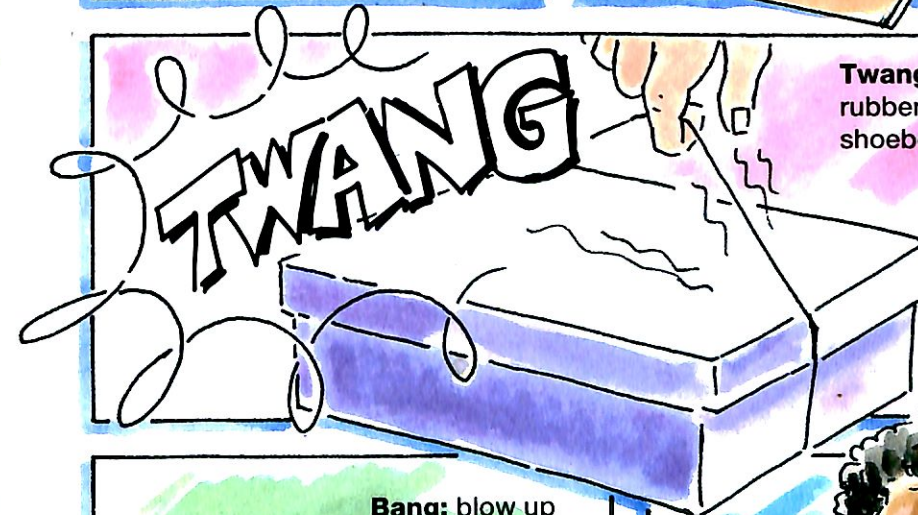
Fish or diver breathing underwater: blow bubbles into a glass or bowl of water using a straw.



Thunderclaps: shake a large piece of cardboard.



Trotting horse: bang two coconut halves together.



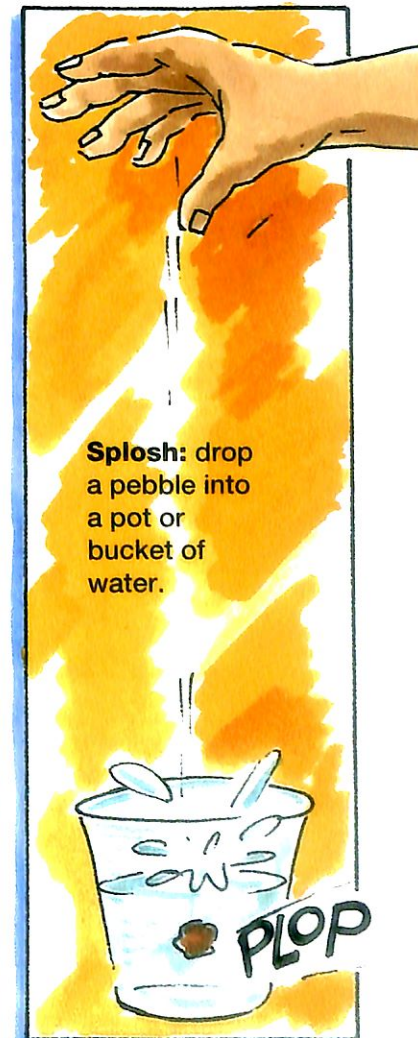
Twang: stretch a rubber band over a shoebox and pluck it.



Bang: blow up a crisp packet and burst it with your hand.



Buzzing bee: hold some greaseproof paper tightly over a comb and hum into it.



Splosh: drop a pebble into a pot or bucket of water.



A CANAL

“Wherever there’s water you’ll find me standing perfectly still in the shallows looking for prey. I’ll often take a look at the canal to see what I can find to eat. All sorts of plants grow in different parts of the canal, but by late September most of them have finished flowering. At this time of year the canal is still full of activity. The towpath is a tangle of brambles, grasses and other plants which provide cover and food for birds and small mammals.

At the water’s edge is a dense jungle of plants where small birds are well hidden. Among the plants you might find the entrance to a Water vole’s burrow. You may be lucky enough to see one swimming along with its nose held up above the water.

On the water Coots scoot around, dive and pop up again while under the surface it’s even busier with all kinds of fish. That’s why you’ll often see people fishing there as well as me.”

Whistler’s Challenge: whiskery Water voles are never far from water. They look like Brown rats but have a blunter nose. How many can you spot?





In the picture there are three Water voles on dry land and another one swimming to the underwater entrance of its burrow.

The Ramshorn snail has a sort of lung which it uses to breathe air from the water's surface. This means it has to keep coming up for air, unlike most other water snails which have gills like fish.



Himalayan balsam is a tall plant with a nice oily smell and pinkish flowers. It also has small greenish brown fruits – each one is shaped like a policeman's helmet which explodes when you touch it.



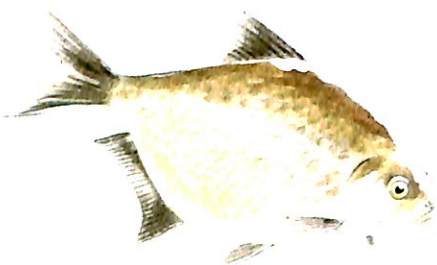
Reed buntings are mainly found near water but also turn up on dry farmland. The female is a bit like a sparrow but the male has a distinctive black head with a white moustache.



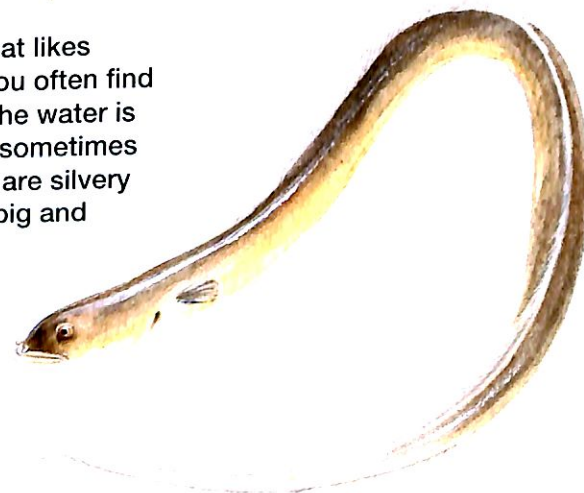
Broad-leaved pondweed looks like big green tongues floating on the water. Thick beds of this pondweed grow in the shallow edges of the canal. They make ideal hiding places for young Pike.



The Coot is all black except for its white bill and forehead. Out of the water look for their enormous feet.



The Bream is a fish that likes pretty calm water so you often find them in canals where the water is still. Young Bream are sometimes called skimmers. They are silvery while adult bream are big and bronze-coloured.



Eels are quite common and live at the bottom of the canal. They eat snails, frogs, tadpoles and fish eggs. If you grab hold of an eel it wraps itself round your hand in a slimy knot.



Arrowhead is a water plant with three kinds of leaves. It has thin ribbon leaves under water, oval ones floating on the surface, and arrow-shaped leaves sticking out of the water on long stems.



Water voles make quite a noise when they get in the water so if you hear a plop as you walk along the canal towpath it may be a Water vole.

FLOATING AND SINKING

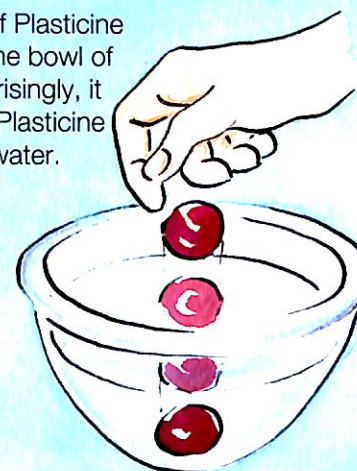
Things that are lighter than water, such as wood and cork, float, while things that are heavier than water, such as metal and Plasticine, sink. So how on earth does something as heavy as a ship float?



PLASTICINE SHIP

You will need: Plasticine, bowl of water.

1 Take a ball of Plasticine and place it in the bowl of water. Not surprisingly, it sinks, because Plasticine is heavier than water.



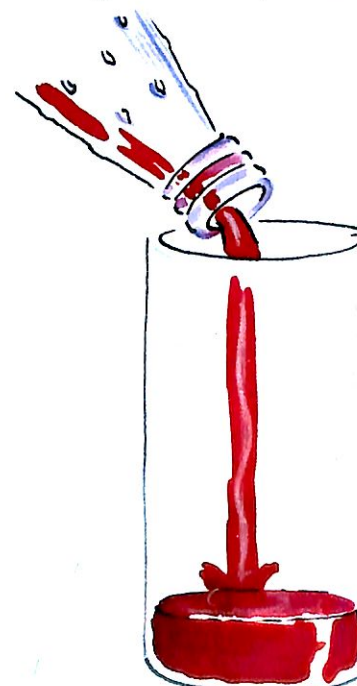
2 Take the Plasticine out of the water and shape it into a boat. Place it in the water – it floats, amazing! Add a cargo of dried peas to the ship – it still floats!



RAINBOW COCKTAIL

You will need: lemonade, Ribena, milk, glace cherries, ice-cream – anything that's good to drink, metal spoon, glass.

Have you ever wondered why cream rises to the top of the milk bottle? Or why oil floats on water? Well this is because some liquids are lighter than others. Try making this drink and see for yourself.



1 The clue is to put the heaviest liquids at the bottom of the glass and the lightest at the top. Start by pouring a layer of Ribena syrup into the glass.



2 Next, slowly pour some lemonade over the back of a spoon into the glass. Do the same with the milk.



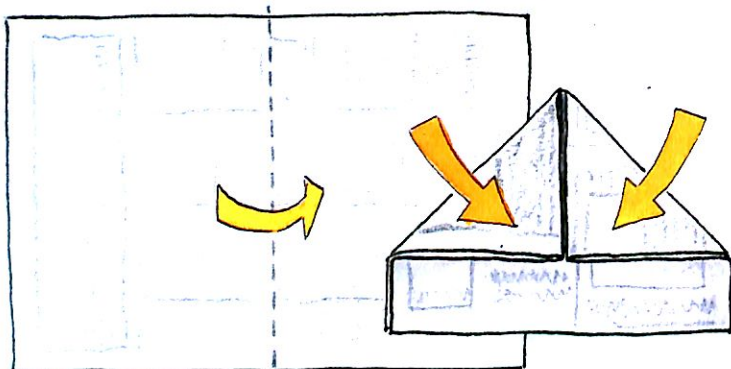
3 Finally, add a blob of ice-cream and a couple of cherries on top.

If you've been very careful all the layers will remain separate, making a rainbow cocktail. Experiment with other drinks and see what happens!

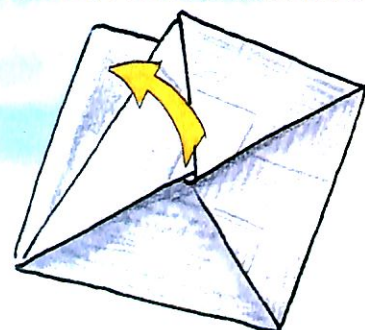


BATH TUB BOAT

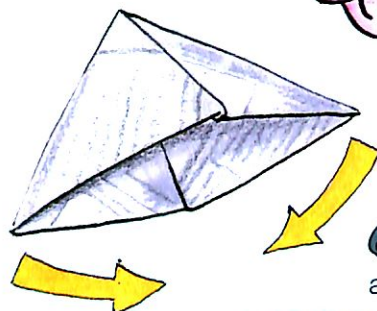
You will need: a sheet of newspaper, sticky tape.



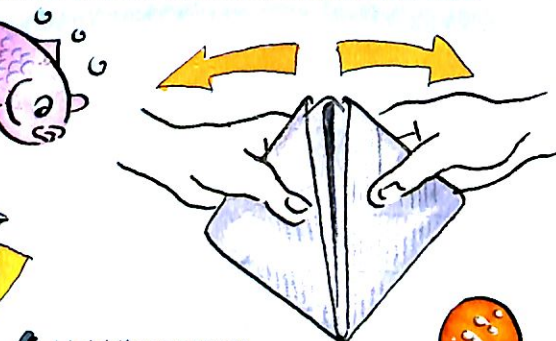
1 Fold the page in half. With the crease at the top, fold in the corners to meet in the centre.



5 Fold the shape in half. Turn over and repeat on the other side.



2 Fold up the bottom flap. Turn the paper over and do the same on the other side.



6 Hold the corners and push them together.

THROUGH THE PORTHOLE

Make this fun birthday card for someone in your family!

1 Cut out a piece of card 25 x 20cm, and fold in half, as shown. Draw a ship on the front of the card, adding three portholes.



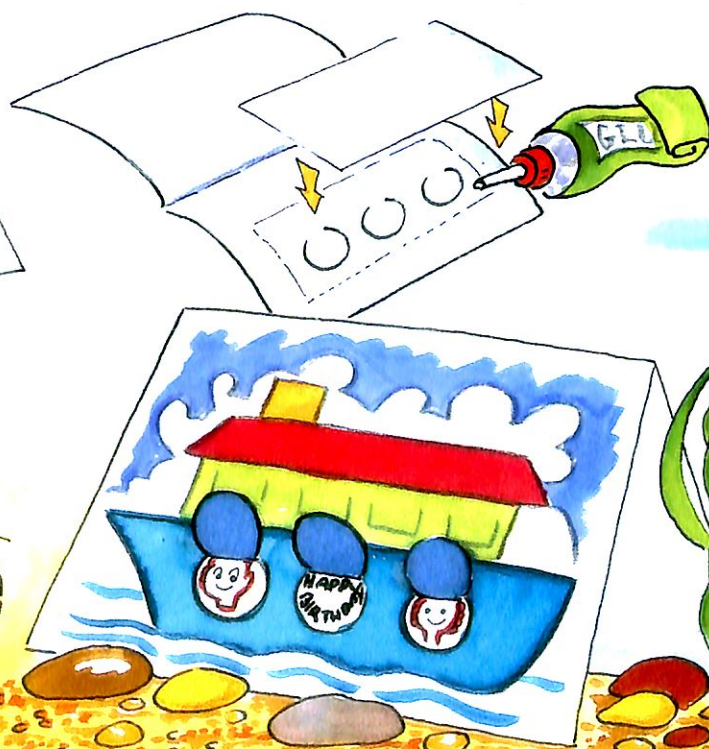
2 Cut round the dotted lines as shown, so the portholes open and shut.



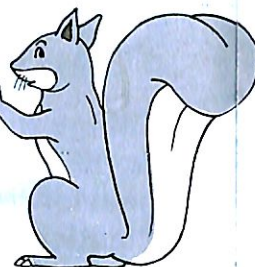
You will need:

piece of thick white card, scissors, felt tips, glue, piece of paper.

3 Cut out a piece of paper wide enough to stick over the back of all three portholes. Draw the captain of the ship and a sailor looking out of the portholes, and write 'Happy Birthday' in the middle one!

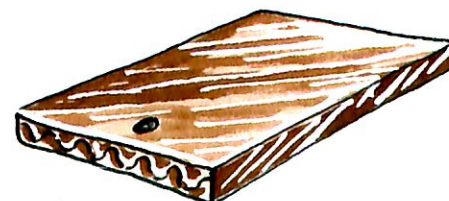


Squirrel says
Take an adult with
you if you want
to float your boat
on the pond.



RACY RAFTS

1 Cut a square, 12 x 12cm, out of corrugated card. Poke a hole in the centre using a pencil. Wrap a piece of clingfilm round the card to make it waterproof.



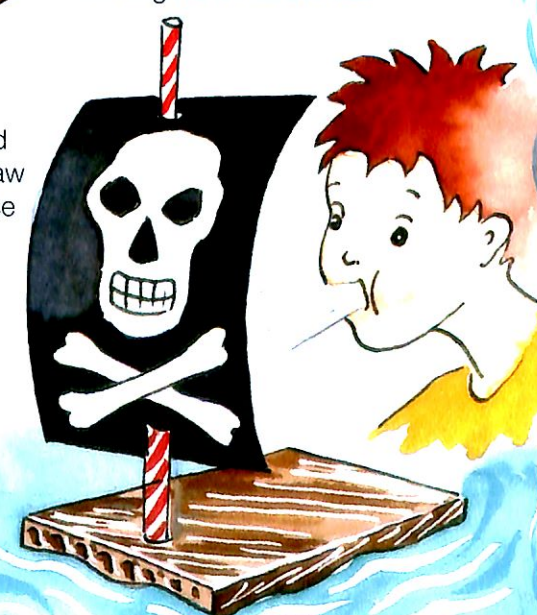
2 Cut out a square of coloured paper, 10 x 10cm, for a sail. Draw a skull and crossbones on it. Use a pencil to poke a small hole at the top and bottom of the sail.



You will need:

corrugated card, clingfilm, coloured paper, glue, sticky tape, drinking straw, scissors.

3 Push the straw through the two holes of the sail. Then push one end firmly into the raft. You can race your raft by putting it in the sink and blowing hard into the sail.



DID YOU KNOW?

Some fish can lower themselves to the bottom of the sea by letting out air from a bag in their bodies, called a swim bladder.



You can test the freshness of an egg by putting it in a glass of water. If the egg sinks, it's fresh - if it floats, it's stale!



In the Middle East there is a sea called the Dead Sea. The water is so heavy from all the salt in it that people easily float on top. You can read a book in this sea without getting it wet!



EATING

Animals have many ways to eat the meat and vegetation they need to stay alive. There's a massive menu of different sorts of food to eat in all sorts of places from the jungle to the sea. So each animal has its own special way of eating depending on what it eats and where it feeds. There are even plants that eat animals!

BITING BARK ►

Rabbits are real nibblers and like nothing better than chomping away at plants. But sometimes they'll have a go at the bark of trees and can do a lot of damage.

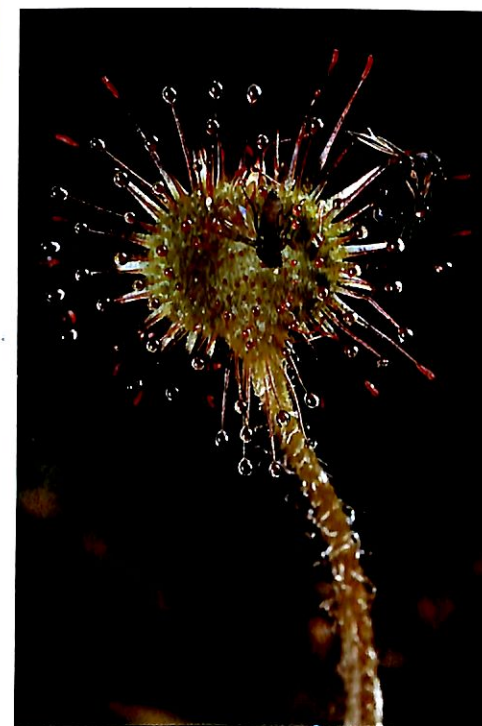


▲ VEGETABLE MOOSE

This big Moose is searching out its favourite plants in fairly deep water. A Moose can hold its head underwater for quite a long time while its big lips gather vegetation.

▼ BALD BIRDS

Ruppell's Griffon vultures never miss a chance of swooping down from the sky to scavenge on a dead animal. Because their heads and necks don't have any feathers they can poke right inside the corpse without dirtying their plumage.



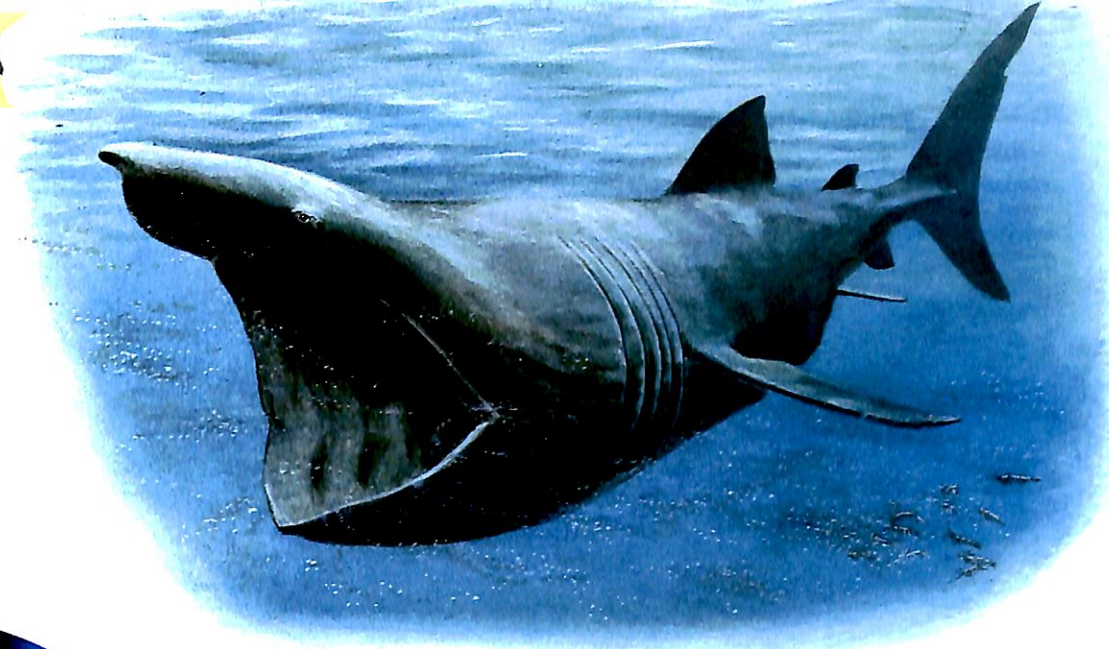
IT'S Amazing!

OPEN WIDE

When it finds an egg which looks too big to fit into its mouth the African egg-eating snake has no worries. It can open its jaws extra wide to scoff the egg whole. When the egg lump is down its throat the snake cracks it with its neck muscles so the soft inside and the shell flow into its stomach.

SOFTIE SHARK ►

The Basking shark is an enormous fish which can grow to around 11m long – that's as long as a double-decker bus. It only eats tiny animals. The shark needs plenty of food to keep it going, so it swims around with its mouth wide open filtering food from the water.



:What is the Giant panda's favourite food?

Bamboo.



◀ RUDE MOTH

The Hawk moth sticks its tongue out so far that you might think its the rudest moth in the world. But it needs a long one to lap up the nectar at the bottom of very deep flowers.

◀ STICKY END

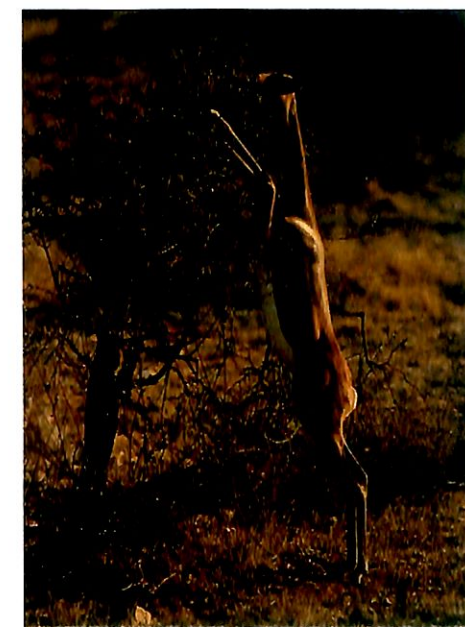
The leaves of Sundew plants are covered in sticky red hairs. When an insect lands on a leaf it gets stuck. The leaf curls around it and then makes juices which dissolve the soft bits into a soup for the plant to eat.

How do animals make toast in the jungle?

Under the Gorilla.

▼ WALK TALL

Giraffes don't have any trouble reaching the nicest leaves at the tops of trees. But what do you do if you haven't got such a long neck? One way is to do what these Gerenuk are doing – stand up on your back legs so you reach a bit higher.

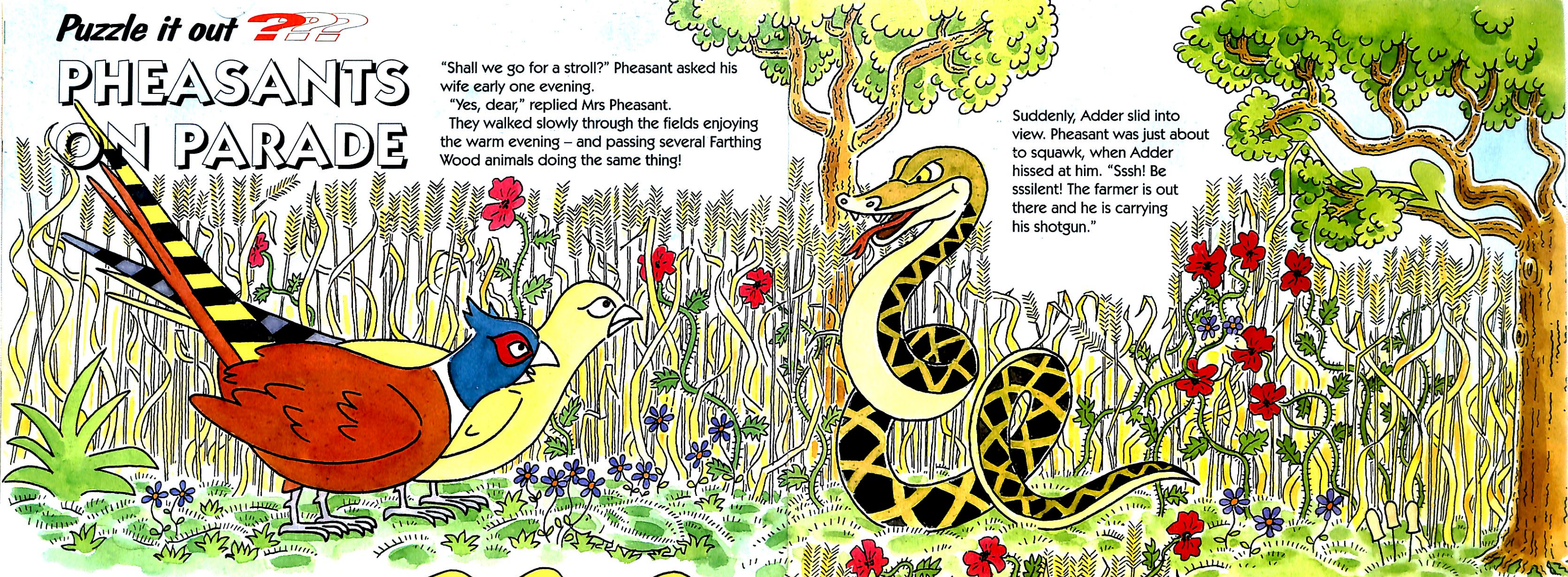


Puzzle it out ???

PHEASANTS ON PARADE

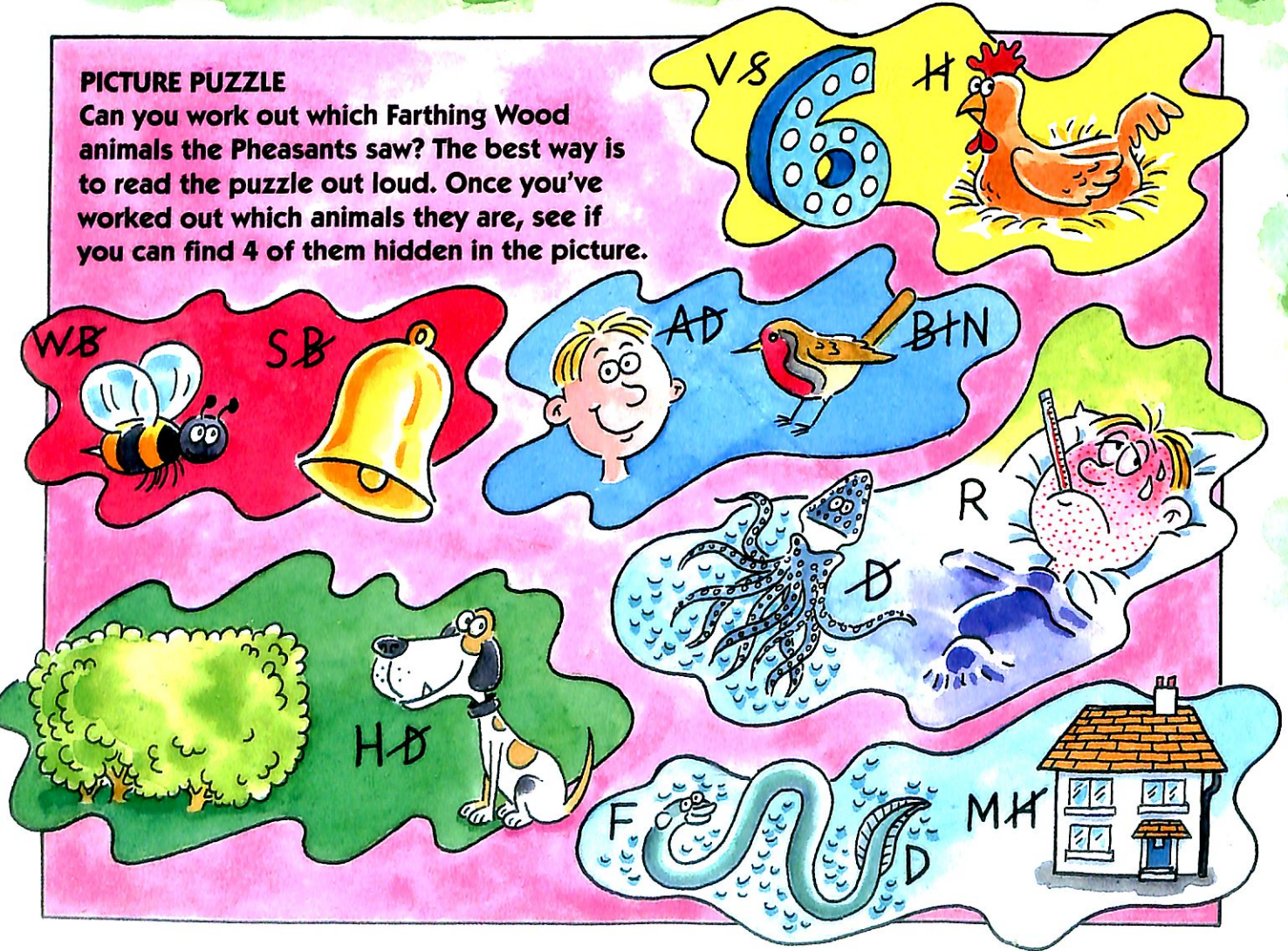
"Shall we go for a stroll?" Pheasant asked his wife early one evening.
 "Yes, dear," replied Mrs Pheasant.
 They walked slowly through the fields enjoying the warm evening – and passing several Farthing Wood animals doing the same thing!

Suddenly, Adder slid into view. Pheasant was just about to squawk, when Adder hissed at him. "Sssh! Be sssilent! The farmer is out there and he is carrying his shotgun."

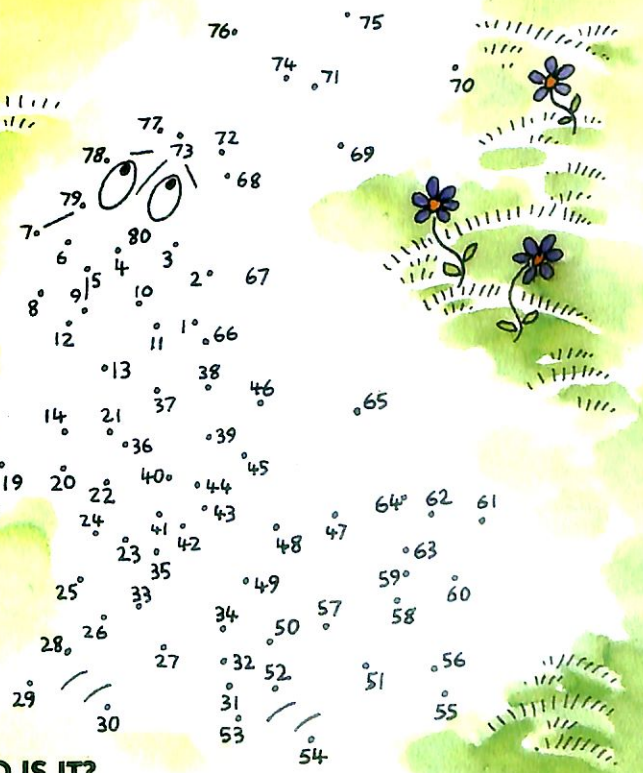
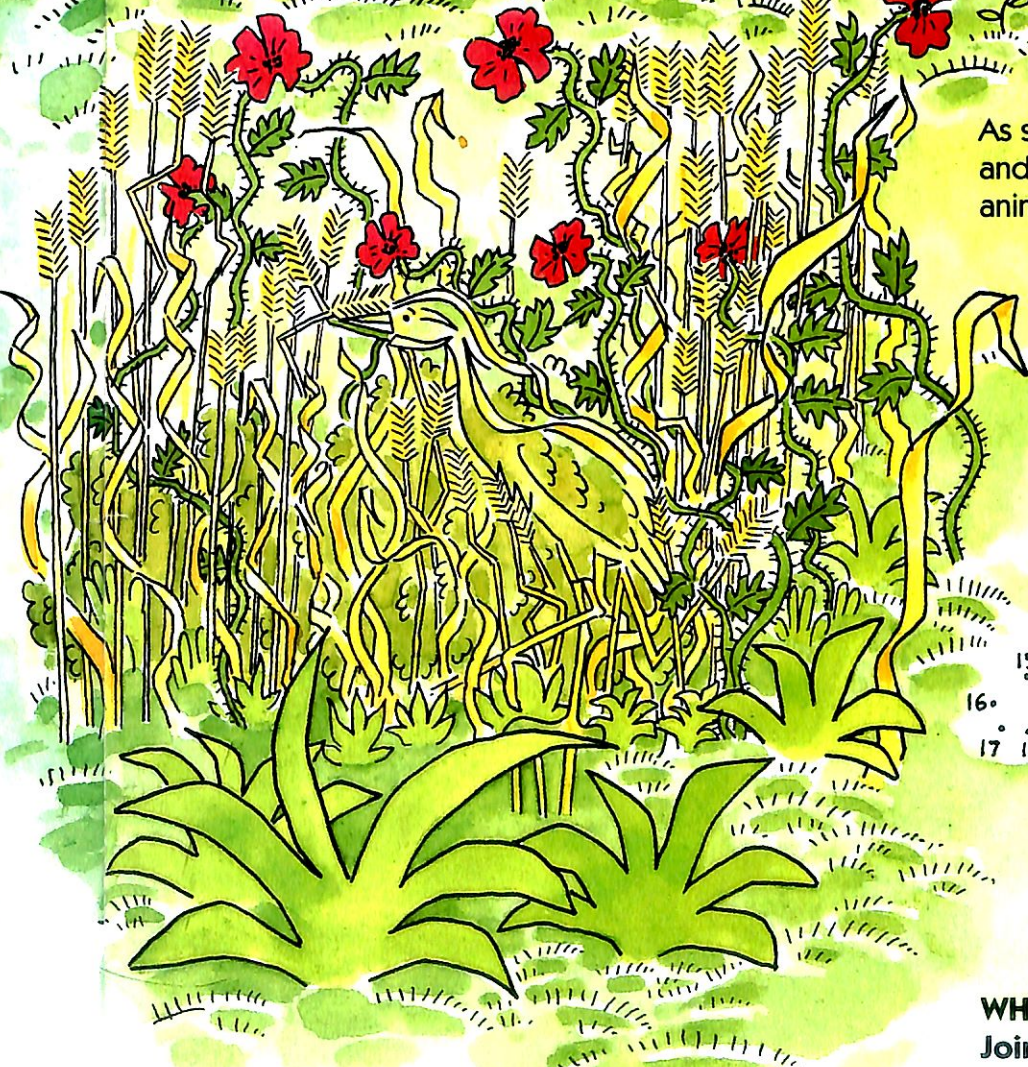


PICTURE PUZZLE

Can you work out which Farthing Wood animals the Pheasants saw? The best way is to read the puzzle out loud. Once you've worked out which animals they are, see if you can find 4 of them hidden in the picture.



As she finished speaking, there was a bang and a puff of smoke and a panic-stricken animal rushed towards them.



WHO IS IT?
 Join the dots to find out which animal it is.

Puzzle it out ???

"Oh, my paws and whiskers!" cried the frightened creature. "What a terrible thing it is to be hunted."

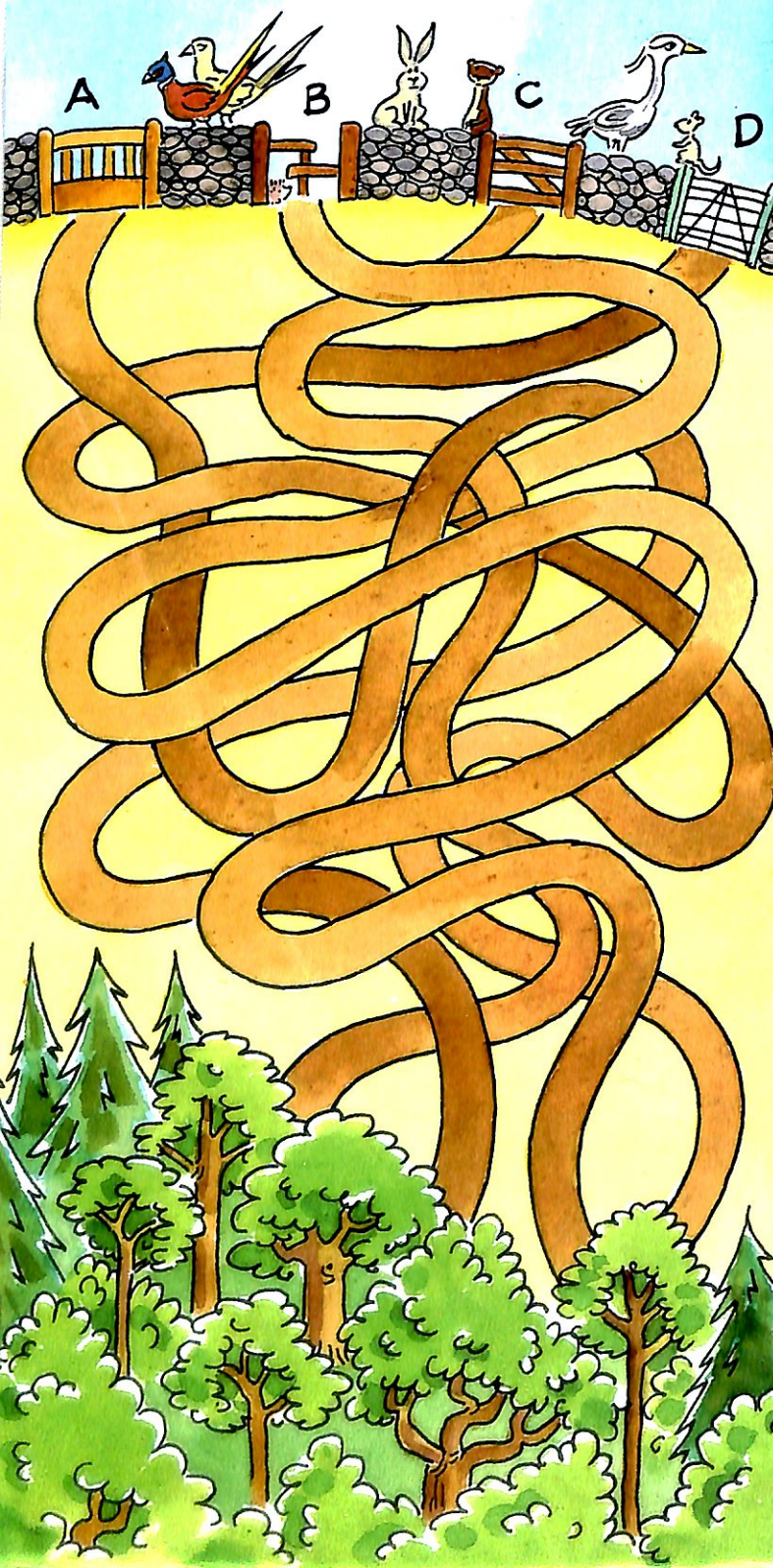
"I know all about it," said Pheasant, puffing out his chest. "My life is constantly in danger."

"There, there, dear," said his wife, whose life was also constantly in danger.

"There's only one thing to do," said Adder. "We'll have to turn round and make our way back to Farthing Wood as quickly as we can." And that is exactly what they did.

FIND THE WAY

Which is the shortest route to Farthing Wood?

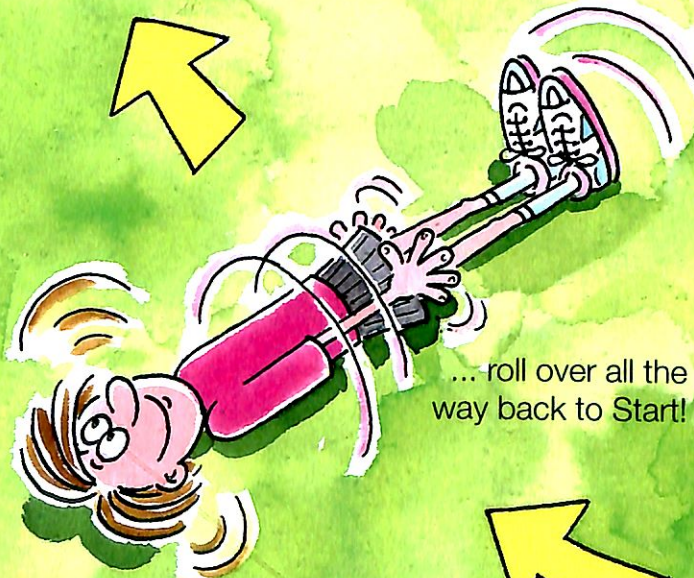


See how fast you can run this OBSTACLE RACE!

When your friends come over, set up an obstacle course. Putting it together can be just as much fun as running it. Just as long as you finish the course, it doesn't matter in which order you do it. And don't forget that each obstacle has to be completed properly before going on to the next one - otherwise you have to start again.

TUNNEL

Make a tunnel by draping a blanket over four old chairs.



Squirrel says
Make sure you've asked your mum first if you can use all the things you need.



SKIPPING

Skip 20 times without stopping then ...



THROUGH THE LEGS

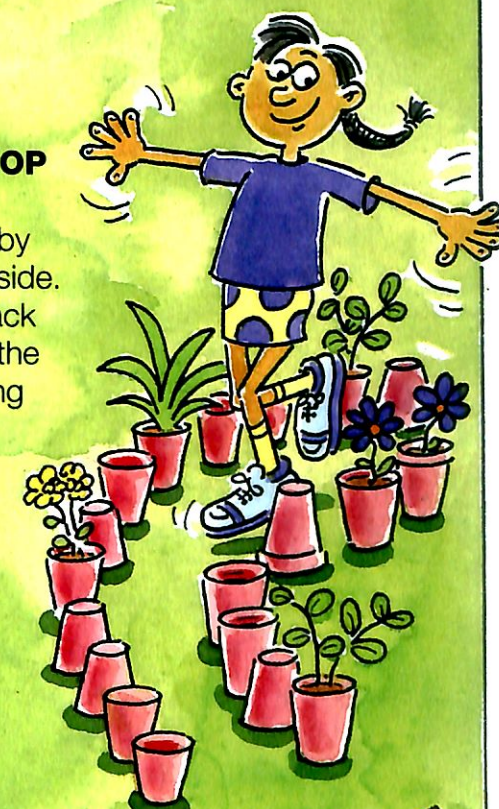
Mark a line with sticks, then place a bucket a metre away. Stand by the line, turning your back on the bucket, then bend down and throw 5 tennis balls, one at a time, through your legs. See how many you can get in the bucket.

MARSHMALLOW TEASE

Take 3 or 4 marshmallows for each player. Thread a long piece of cotton through each one and tie them to the washing line. Now each player must eat their marshmallows with their hands behind their back.

FLOWERPOT HOP

Make a narrow twisty track lined by flowerpots either side. Hop along this track without touching the flowerpots or going outside the track.



ANSWERS

PICTURE PUZZLE

Vixen, Weasel, Heron, Squirrel, Hedgehog, Fieldmouse

WHO IS IT?

Rabbit

FIND THE WAY

C is the shortest route back to Farthing Wood.

Colour it in 

HARVEST TIME

